

NOTICE OF FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Foster Care Court Improvement Project (FCCIP) Department Of Family Administration Administrative Office Of The Courts FCCIP Grants FY 2008

General Information

The Foster Care Court Improvement Project announces the availability of funds to support programs and/or projects designed to assist the courts in processing *CINA* and related *Guardianship and Adoption* cases, and to facilitate the elimination of barriers to timely permanency for Maryland's children.

The Maryland Judiciary received State funding to further the initiatives outlined in the 2001 *TPR Plan of Action Report*. Priority for funding will be given to those programs that have a demonstrated need of start-up or maintenance funds and have limited outside funding sources. (*Examples of previously funded programs include: Court ADR CINA/TPR programs; Jurisdictional Stakeholder Trainings; a CINA/TPR Paternity Lab; funding for paternity testing; Court Education Liaison to work between the Court, DSS, and Board of Education; CINA Drug Court Programs and a Children's Courtroom Project, etc.*). Funds are also offered to assist existing programs seeking stabilization. Previously funded programs and/or projects by the FCCIP must have submitted timely expense reports and proof of progress towards project goals prior to this grant's submission deadline to be eligible to apply for additional funding from FCCIP.

Funding Categories:

FCCIP is looking to fund programs and/or projects under the following categories:

- A. **General** -Funds under this category are designed to assist programs and/or projects focusing on early determination and location of parents, Service of Process, Paternity Testing, and Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- B. **Permanency Planning Project Grants (PPPG)**- PPPG funds are for demonstration programs and/or projects that are designed to eliminate barriers that prevent the timely permanent placement of children. Examples of funding opportunities under this category are the *National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Victims Model Court Programs* or *Dependency Drug Court Programs*.

Requirements:

Programs interested in submitting a request for funding must complete the enclosed application and designate the grant category or categories of interest. Programs are encouraged to demonstrate their efforts at sustaining program operations through identification of goals, outcomes, and additional funding resources. If two or more counties wish to apply for funding for multi-county projects, those projects should submit a single application and designate one contact person. Programs that are not submitted by the court must include a letter of support from the court and demonstrate collaboration with the court in the jurisdiction where services are to be provided. Additionally, programs must follow local procurement policy and practices in expending grant funds.

Application and Instructions:

Applications and Grant Guidelines can be found at
www.mdcourts.gov/family.

Note: In applying for grant funds, applicants agree to abide by the Fiscal Year 2008 Grant Guidelines.

Applications are due on or before close of business Monday, May 14, 2007.

Applicants must submit one original and four copies of the proposal. Faxed or e-mailed copies of the application will not be accepted. Completed applications must be sent to the following address:

*Foster Care Court Improvement Project
Department of Family Administration
Administrative Office of the Courts
580 Taylor Avenue, 2nd Floor
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

Available Funds:

Grant amounts will be contingent upon the provision of funds in the Maryland Judiciary budget by the Maryland General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2008, as well as, on the range and content of program proposals. The project period is from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. If awarded, programs will be required to submit quarterly progress reports on set dates. Progress report formats will be supplied by FCCIP to grant recipients.

Technical Assistance:

An informational session will be provided to anyone seeking additional information regarding the application process. The informational

session has been scheduled for Wednesday, **April 25, 2007 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** and will be held at the Judiciary Education and Conference Center (JECC) located at 2009D Commerce Park Drive in Annapolis, Maryland. Directions for the JECC can be obtained by calling. *Attendance at the informational session is not mandatory* and is offered only as a supplement to the information included within this NOFA and the application. Please contact Christie Richards at 410-260-1580 to notify us if you plan to attend the session.

For further information regarding this Notice of Funding, please contact the FCCIP at (410) 260-1427.

